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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: thirteenth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 69/290, coincides with several global milestones relevant to the agenda of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), including the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 20-year review of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the prospective adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the 2015 United Nations climate change prospective agreement, as well as the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Beyond those global milestones, 2015 is also a landmark year for Africa's development, with the adoption of the African Union Agenda 2063, the long-term, strategic vision for the continent's transformative development over the next 50 years, and its first 10-year Implementation Plan (2014-2023).

The report highlights actions taken by African countries towards achievement of the aims of NEPAD, including increased investment and regional coordination in infrastructure development and regional integration, innovative projects related to agriculture development and climate change adaptation, and strengthened efforts to improve national and regional health-care systems in the wake of the Ebola outbreak. To achieve further progress, however, the continent will need to overcome challenges in all of the NEPAD priority thematic areas and adapt the NEPAD priorities to the new strategic thinking of the African Union.

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Despite extensive efforts in domestic resource mobilization, the report identifies inadequate financing as a major challenge in all sectors and underlines the need for greater investment by African countries and their development partners, as well as for greater efforts to spur private sector investment and public-private partnerships in the region. The report emphasizes the need for African countries to achieve economic transformation through industrialization and diversification. It also stresses the need for the international community to complement the continent's efforts, including through increased financial support, technical assistance and capacity-building, and emphasizes the need for Africa's priorities to be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 69/290, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its seventieth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. The report highlights the policy measures undertaken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as well as the response of the international community and support provided by the United Nations system during the past year. Activities undertaken by the private sector and civil society in support of NEPAD are also highlighted. The report benefited from information provided by Member States, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), members of the United Nations interdepartmental task force on African affairs and other regional and subregional African stakeholders.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. Adopted in 2001 by African Heads of State and Government, NEPAD is an African-owned and African-led framework for socioeconomic development. In the almost decade and a half since its adoption, the continent has experienced unprecedented economic growth and improved social development. Despite that progress, persistent obstacles and new challenges have hindered the continent's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and hampered overall socioeconomic progress on the continent.

4. With the aim of spurring transformative change, at the twenty-fourth African Union Summit, held in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, member States adopted Agenda 2063, an ambitious 50-year transformative agenda that outlines a wide-ranging vision for the continent's development, peace and security. Agenda 2063 builds on the NEPAD experience, incorporating all of the sectoral priorities of NEPAD, as well as ongoing national and regional efforts towards its implementation of NEPAD. African Heads of State and Government reaffirmed NEPAD as the strategic vehicle to accelerate the implementation of the African Union's regional integration agenda and recommitted themselves to exercising strong political will and determination to fast-track NEPAD delivery at all levels within the context of Agenda 2063.

5. During the reporting period, the continent took important steps towards realizing both its NEPAD and Agenda 2063 aspirations. In June 2015, African leaders adopted the first 10-year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063, a comprehensive framework that, inter alia, outlines the goals, targets, flagship projects and implementation framework for the first decade of the Agenda. In addition, the leaders of three regional economic communities — the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community — launched the Tripartite Free Trade Area, uniting 26 African countries that comprise roughly half the continent and

account for 55 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) in pursuit of the strengthened regional trade and integration envisioned by NEPAD.

A. Infrastructure development

6. Recognizing its importance for growth, development and regional integration, African countries committed themselves to implementing the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which serves as the continent's overarching framework for infrastructure development.

7. During the reporting period, the NEPAD Agency continued to coordinate large-scale regional and national infrastructure initiatives. Considerable efforts were made towards the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan, which comprises 51 regional and subregional programmes and projects designed to address sector-specific infrastructure deficits in energy, information and communications technology, transport and transboundary waterways.

8. Following the twenty-second African Union Summit, held in January 2014, the African Union Commission and AfDB launched the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa capacity-building project, which is intended to strengthen the capacity of African countries to plan, prepare and coordinate the implementation of regional infrastructure projects. In addition, the NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission, in collaboration with other partners, developed the Service Delivery Mechanism of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa to bolster early-stage project preparation and development. The Mechanism complements the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, a multi-donor trust fund that supports the development of regional and continental infrastructure with grants to African governments, regional economic communities and African infrastructure-related institutions.

9. African countries particularly focused on ensuring financing and implementation of the 16 priority infrastructure projects of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa identified in the Dakar Agenda for Action, which was adopted at the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held in Dakar in 2014.[1] In October 2014, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the United Nations Global Compact, organized a business forum to identify public-private partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the priority projects.

10. In addition, at the January 2015 African Union Summit, African countries endorsed the Acceleration Strategy of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa as the basis for accelerating implementation of the 16 priority projects. As a follow-up, the World Economic Forum on Africa, held in Cape Town, South Africa from 3 to 5 June 2015, featured the launch of the Continental Business Network of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, a high-level advocacy and investment platform for increased private sector participation in financing and implementation of the Programme as well as a forum for addressing challenges and

[1] Projects identified are, among others, the Sambangalou hydropower project in West Africa, the Batoka Gorge hydropower project in Zimbabwe, the Dar-es-Salaam Port expansion project in East Africa and the Serenje-Nakonde road in Zambia, which is part of the North-South Corridor.

opportunities relating to infrastructure development in Africa. The Network will comprise leading African and global business and finance bodies as well as regional and international organizations.

11. Progress was also made in the implementation of several Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative projects during the reporting period. After the successful closing of a $40 million funding gap, noteworthy progress was made in the "Missing link of the Trans-Sahara Highway" project, which covers more than 4,500 kilometres from Algeria to Nigeria; the project is scheduled for completion in 2016/17. Under the "Optic fibre from Algeria via Niger to Nigeria" project the Algeria section of the network was completed and is now operational. Progress was also recorded on other projects, including the "Trans-Sahara gas pipeline" and the "Kinshasa-Brazzaville bridge road/rail" projects and the "Navigational line from Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean Sea via the River Nile" project, for which the Government of Egypt completed a pre-feasibility study in June 2015.

12. Despite progress, lack of financing remains the major obstacle to the achievement of the continent's infrastructure goals. Realization of its ambitions will require improved mobilization of resources from all relevant funding sources, both public and private, as well as strengthened infrastructure development coordination structures at the national, regional and international levels.

B. Agriculture and food security

13. African countries continued to make progress towards implementing commitments relating to agricultural development and food security during the review period, including the Maputo Declaration commitment to allocate at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture, and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme commitment to achieve a 6 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural productivity.

14. During the reporting period, African countries took specific steps towards the achievement of those aims. At the twenty-third African Union Summit, held in June 2014 in Malabo, African countries reaffirmed the vision of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and set relevant targets for the next decade, including upholding the 2003 Maputo targets. Subsequently, the NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission undertook an extensive consultation process to design the Implementation Strategy and Road Map for the Implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Africa's Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation, which was launched at the twentieth-fourth African Union Summit in January 2015.

15. African countries continued to implement their commitments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme during the reporting period. As of May 2015, 50 countries are actively engaging in the Programme process, with 44 having signed Programme compacts and 29 implementing national agriculture and food security investment plans. To assist countries' efforts, the NEPAD Agency established the Continental Framework for Agriculture Education and Training and prepared specialized thematic studies on various themes, including climate-smart agriculture, irrigation and gender-related agriculture issues. The Agency also strengthened the capacities of continental and regional farmer organizations through training and technical and financial support.

16. In 2014, the NEPAD Agency commenced implementation of the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme, which is aimed at increasing the productivity of women smallholder farmers and supporting their integration into all aspects of the agriculture value chain. The Programme's design and planning engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, civil society and women farmers, who played a strong leadership role. In 2015, the Programme identified and supported agriculture adaptation projects in over 120 districts in six countries[2] and is expected to reach 170,000 households in its initial phase.

17. At the eleventh Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform, held in March 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa, the NEPAD Agency launched the Programme results framework to track, assess and report on progress towards implementation of the Malabo Declaration commitments. To further monitoring and accountability, NEPAD supported eight countries[3] to establish national strategic analysis knowledge support systems as a means of strengthening data, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, agriculture joint sector reviews were undertaken in seven countries[4] to assess mechanisms and practices.

18. In 2015, the NEPAD Agency also supported Cabo Verde, the Gambia and Senegal in conducting agriculture food insecurity risks mapping analyses and helped to integrate risk calculations into their national agriculture and food security investment plans, as well as their national development plans. In addition, NEPAD developed a strategies on fish post-harvest losses for Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo, aligning those strategies with the Malabo Declaration and the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

19. With regard to strengthening private sector engagement in Africa's agricultural sector, the NEPAD Agency supported Botswana, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and South Africa in strengthening their agribusiness chambers, including through institutional assessments of national agribusiness chambers in the respective countries.

20. While Africa has made noteworthy progress in implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and Maputo commitments, countries continue to face inadequate financial support in the agriculture sector, a lack of capacity-building and policy coordination, and difficulty in translating political commitments into concrete actions.

C. Health

21. Health remains a key priority for African countries. The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in 2014 strongly underscored the need to increase investment to strengthen the continent's health-care systems. African governments have made strong commitments in the area of health, including under the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, in which they

[2] Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria and Rwanda.

[3] Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Zambia.

[4] Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

committed themselves to allocating at least 15 per cent of annual national budgets to the improvement of the health sector.

22. During the review period, the NEPAD Agency improved access to high-quality essential medicines through its African medicines regulatory harmonization programme, within the framework of the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the Road Map for Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for the AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa. The African Union Commission and the Pan African Parliament spearheaded the development of a draft model law on medical products regulation and harmonization in Africa, in order to facilitate a systematic approach to developing legislation on medical products regulation in support of local production of pharmaceuticals.

23. Through the African medicines regulatory harmonization programme, in September 2014 the East African Community adopted harmonized technical requirements for the regulation of medicines which entered into effect in January 2015. As a result of the harmonization, two antimalarial drugs and three reproductive health drugs were jointly reviewed and accepted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and East African Community in less than a year. This is 30 to 40 per cent faster than the average prequalification process for generic medicines, which significantly reduced costs and registration timelines.

24. The NEPAD Agency and the African Academy of Sciences also made progress towards the establishment of a funding platform for the health research and innovations in Africa initiative, with the aim of improving health-care delivery by generating solutions to the health challenges identified in the Africa Health Strategy: 2007-2015.

25. In the context of the fight against Ebola, the NEPAD Agency contributed to the African regulators and ethics committees process on the phase III clinical trials of vaccines against Ebola, convened by WHO in December 2014. To operationalize the agreed steps, in February 2015, the NEPAD Agency and the West African Health Organization of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) convened a follow-up process of African regulators and ethics committees in Accra.

26. The African Union response to the Ebola outbreak was broad and comprehensive, including the establishment of the African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa mission and the provision of increased funding to expand the mandate of the African Union Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa to include public health emergencies. The African Union also took steps towards the establishment of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

27. Despite progress, the Ebola outbreak illustrates the multitude of challenges facing health systems on the continent, including insufficient financial resources, a shortage of adequately trained health workers and lack of coordination among various related sectors.

D. Education and training

28. African countries continued to pursue global and continental commitments relating to education, including the Millennium Development Goals on universal primary education and gender equality in education, the Dakar Framework for

Action on Education for All and the NEPAD Agency's Education for All in Africa initiative.

29. During the reporting period, the NEPAD Agency promoted training and educational interventions that strengthened health care, including through the establishment of a training and development centre for teachers of science, mathematics and technology, as well as the Nursing and Midwifery Education in Africa programme, which was implemented in Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo.

30. The NEPAD Agency also supported education and training programmes in agriculture. The Continental Framework for Agriculture Education and Training established agriculture education and training knowledge hubs with the aim of ensuring that, by 2016, more than 300,000 farmers in Ethiopia, Niger and Uganda will be equipped with agriculture and food insecurity risk management tools.

31. In June 2015, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Senegal launched the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund, which will aid the World Bank in its "Partnership for skills in applied science, engineering and technology" programme to award 10,000 African PhD scholarships in a span of 10 years.

32. While most African countries are on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal target of universal primary school enrolment, the continent's completion rates are relatively low, illustrating the need for a consistent and sustainable allocation of resources, improvement of learning and teaching conditions, and strengthening of teachers' professional development.

E. Environment and tourism

33. Since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, African countries have committed themselves to integrating environmental sustainability into development planning, a commitment that was reaffirmed in the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the 2005 World Summit and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

34. During the reporting period, African countries and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment strengthened their efforts to implement the NEPAD Environment Initiative. In the first phase of the NEPAD Climate Change Fund, implementation commenced on 11 projects in 10 African countries in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa region, addressing challenges such as climate change adaptation in agriculture, biodiversity conservation and the mainstreaming of climate change into national agricultural investment plans.

35. As of December 2014, 27 African countries have engaged in sustainable land and water management investment planning and 12 countries have completed their country strategic investment frameworks. The NEPAD Agency provided technical support to 16 countries in that regard. Through the implementation of sustainable land and water management practices, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya and Togo successfully increased the number of hectares of land that are sustainably managed, enabling an increase in the number of land users.

36. In 2015, the Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Coordination Platform was established with the aim of having at least 25 million African farm households practising climate smart agriculture by 2025, through the use of training and increased access to climate smart agriculture technologies, inputs and tools. The NEPAD Agency is currently undertaking a stocktaking and appraisal of climate smart agriculture programmes in Ethiopia, which are expected to reach over 200,000 households over a 3-year period.

37. Those efforts notwithstanding, African countries continue to face significant impediments in relation to the environment, including inadequate capacity for climate change adaptation and lack of access to adaptive technology.

F. Information and communications technology

38. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency continued to support African countries in the development of information and communications technology (ICT). Actions focused on the four pillars of the NEPAD e-Africa Programme, namely: (a) information and communications technology infrastructure; (b) capacity development; (c) e-applications and services; and (d) an enabling environment and governance.

39. In 2014, under the NEPAD e-Africa Programme, several regional broadband studies were completed and the broadband component of the Africa infrastructure database of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa was updated. In West and Central Africa, the studies provided regulatory gap analysis, as well as network design and business cases for regional networks. As a result of the promotion of broadband strategies under the programme, most African countries now have national broadband plans, many have implemented national fibre-optic backbones and 23 out of 54 African countries now have national Internet exchange points.

40. In addition, the NEPAD Agency conducted fact-finding missions in 32 African countries and used the data collected to establish a database of broadband fibre-optic links. A corresponding information system has been established, with access granted to all stakeholders and ICT professionals across the continent.

41. In September 2014, the NEPAD Agency also facilitated the development of a training curriculum for African stakeholders on Internet governance and ICT policy, which brought together participants from all five regions of the continent. In addition, under the e-Africa Programme dialogue on Internet policy was successfully supported through forums such as the African Internet Governance Forum and the global Internet Governance Forum.

42. Despite progress, barriers to ICT development persist, including limited infrastructure, high costs associated with relevant technologies and regulatory frameworks and limited institutional capacity.

G. Science, technology and innovation

43. The NEPAD Agency continued its work in science, technology and innovation through the implementation of its Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of

Action, which has two main areas of focus: (a) research and development; and (b) mechanisms to improve policy and promote technological innovation.

44. During the reporting period, the NEPAD Agency commenced implementation of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, which was adopted in June 2014 at the twenty-third Summit of the African Union. The Strategy's priorities are a core part of Agenda 2063, which highlights the importance of science, technology and innovation for various priorities, including food security, the environment, water and energy.

45. Under the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators initiative, the NEPAD Agency strengthened the quality of research and development on the continent and expanded the scope of indicators to better inform policymaking. The current phase of the programme addresses emerging issues that require empirical evidence, including the integration of science, technology and innovation, health and education indicators into the assessment process of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

46. In 2015, the NEPAD Agency secured €6 million and €1.19 million from Finland and South Africa, respectively, to support bioscience activities in the Southern Africa region through the NEPAD Southern Africa Network for Biosciences. Through the NEPAD African networks of water centres of excellence, additional funding of €6 million was secured from the European Union (EU) to support capacity development, research and innovation in water and sanitation in the Southern and West Africa regions.

47. During the review period, the NEPAD Agency developed and implemented an information technology system for managing research grants, and established an alliance for acceleration of the sciences in Africa which will serve as a platform for supporting health research in Africa.

H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation

48. African governments have made several commitments relating to gender equality and women's empowerment, including in the context of the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the 2004 Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the African Union Gender Policy and the African Women's Decade (2010-2020).

49. In recognition of the important role of women and girls, at the 24th African Union Summit, in January 2015, 2015 was declared the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development. Furthermore, at the 25th African Union Summit, in June 2015, 2016 was declared the African Year of Human Rights, with particular focus on the rights of women.

50. Through the NEPAD-Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment, the NEPAD Agency disbursed 25 grants in 2014, providing 500,000 euros to women's economic empowerment projects in Africa, including support for small and medium-sized enterprises. The Fund supported the establishment of microcredit schemes in eight African countries,[5] providing low-interest loans to more than 8,000 women,

[5] Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Senegal, South Africa and Togo.

and also provided training to over 3,000 women entrepreneurs in small business management and enterprise development. In addition, the Fund financed training for women and men on gender-based violence prevention, as well as for the creation of a legal handbook and manual entitled "A guide to using the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa for legal action", aimed at helping countries ratify and implement the Protocol on the Rights of Women across the continent.

51. The NEPAD Agency provided financing and agricultural education assistance to approximately 2,300 women in Angola, Cameroon, Guinea, Mozambique and South Sudan to strengthen their agricultural production and facilitate their efforts in commercial agro-processing. The Agency also provided agricultural assistance to 8,452 women in eight countries,[6] providing extension services, training, seeds and other inputs related to crop diversification, as well as support for the construction and maintenance of irrigation systems.

52. In spite of those achievements, progress towards women empowerment faces a number of challenges, including lack of financing and the limited capacity of recipient organizations. Furthermore, high rates of poverty and illiteracy, coupled with persistent discrimination in the economic, social and political sectors, hinder overall progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment in African countries.

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

53. The African Peer Review Mechanism is a mutually agreed self-monitoring instrument established by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in 2003 to strengthen governance and sustainable development in the areas of democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance, and socioeconomic development.

54. During the review period, the African Peer Review Mechanism continued to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance.[7] In January 2015, Côte d'Ivoire joined the Mechanism, increasing its membership to 35 countries, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. As of June 2015, 17 of its member countries have been peer-reviewed.

55. In 2014, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, finalized the design of the NEPAD governance implementation framework to support the accelerated implementation of national programmes of action in African Peer Review Mechanism-reviewed countries. The Agency conducted in-depth evaluations on facilitating accelerated implementation of such programmes in 15 African Peer Review Mechanism-reviewed countries.

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[6] Angola, Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.

[7] See the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/70/176-S/2015/560).

56. In March 2015, the African Peer Review Mechanism held a joint seminar with OECD, in which the two organizations shared experience relating to governance review processes, their respective peer review systems and areas of possible cooperation.

57. The African Peer Review Mechanism also conducted several regional workshops in collaboration with the regional economic communities, with the aim of increasing knowledge of the African Peer Review Mechanism at both community secretariat level and in countries in each region. Workshops were successfully held in the Economic Community of Central African States region in May 2014 and in the Southern African Development Community region in May 2015.

58. Although the African Peer Review Mechanism has made commendable progress, over half of its member States have not yet engaged in the review process for various reasons, including capacity constraints that hinder implementation of resource-intensive and technically demanding African Peer Review Mechanism processes. Efforts are under way to fast-track implementation where the African Peer Review Mechanism process has stalled.

III. Response of the international community: building on the momentum of international support for Africa's development

A. Introduction

59. Given Africa's integration into the world economy, the global economic environment has considerable influence on the continent's development in general and on the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. During the review period, Africa's GDP growth was a subdued 3.9 per cent in 2014, a slight decrease from 4 per cent growth in 2013. This was largely a result of flagging import markets in advanced countries and emerging economies. The decline in exports more than offset growth in domestic demand. The continent's vulnerability to commodity price volatility heightens the need for further progress towards diversification and structural transformation — key development priorities recognized in Agenda 2063.

60. The United States, in August 2014, held the first-ever United States-Africa Summit on the theme "Investing in the next generation". The Summit, which was attended by representatives of government, the private sector and civil society, centred on how to encourage progress in various priority areas, including expanding trade and investment ties, engaging young African leaders and expanding cooperation on peace and security.

61. The Group of Twenty (G-20) Summit, held in Brisbane, Australia in November 2014, addressed various issues of importance to Africa, including raising investment and productivity in food systems through the G-20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework, and reducing the global average cost of transferring remittances.

62. In follow-up to the 2014 European Union-Africa Summit, the seventh European Commission-African Union Commission College-to-College Meeting, convened in Belgium in April 2015, addressed how best to implement the Africa-European Union Joint Strategy and its road map. In a joint declaration, African and European countries welcomed the adoption of Agenda 2063 and reaffirmed their

commitment to strengthening trade and investment between the two continents, as well as cooperation on peace and security.

63. The Group of Seven (G-7) Summit, held in Bavaria, Germany in June 2015, reaffirmed commitment to supporting Africa's development, to jointly mobilizing $100 billion a year in climate financing by 2020 and to making the Green Climate Fund fully operational in 2015. Member countries specifically highlighted the need to accelerate access to renewable energy in Africa by 2020. The Group outlined its aim of improving sustainable energy access in Africa and reaching up to 10,000 MW in additional installed renewables capacity by 2020. With regard to the Ebola crisis, the members of the Group committed themselves to assisting at least 60 countries over the next five years, including the countries of West Africa.

64. The Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in July 2015, culminated in the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which, inter alia, the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries. Member States also reaffirmed the need to achieve positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa and, in that regard, reaffirmed the importance of supporting NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan.

B. Official development assistance

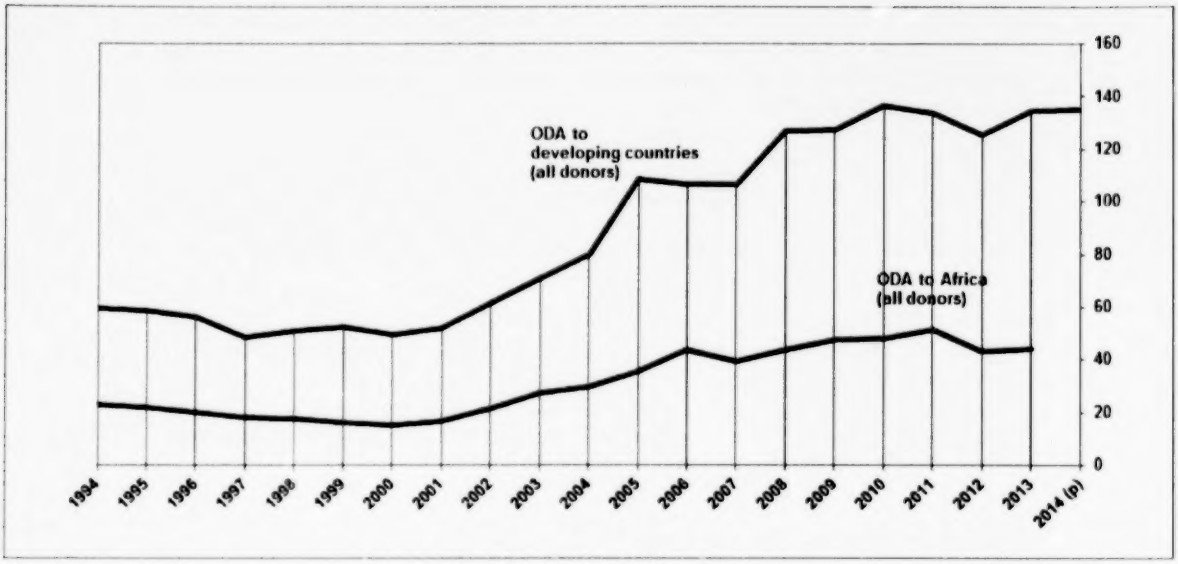
65. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, official development assistance (ODA) providers reaffirmed commitments to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) as ODA and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI as ODA for least developed countries. ODA providers were also encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of GNI as ODA to least developed countries.

66. According to preliminary OECD data, total net ODA from Development Assistance Committee countries to developing countries totalled about $135.2 billion in 2014, representing a slight increase of 0.7 per cent from 2013 levels (see graph below). According to the latest available data,[8] ODA flows to Africa fell from $47.7 billion in 2012 to $44.4 billion in 2013. Africa's share of global ODA also fell during that period. In addition, total aid to least developed countries was approximately $47.3 billion in 2013, an increase from the approximately $43 billion received in 2012.

[8] OECD is finalizing calculations of total official development assistance to Africa and least developed countries in 2014.

Total official development assistance from all donors

(Billions of current United States dollars)



Source: OECD/Development Assistance Committee online database, 2015.

67. On aid effectiveness, the international community's progress has been mixed, with more efforts needed to implement the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation commitments on aid untying, transparency and predictability. Most African countries, however, have made progress in delivering on their commitments, including through improving their national development strategies and strengthening public financial management.

68. With respect to the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNI as ODA, progress remains limited. Based on preliminary OECD data for 2014, the average ODA/GNI of the OECD DAC countries declined from 0.30 per cent in 2013 to 0.29 per cent in 2014. Only five countries met the target: Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

69. At a high-level meeting of the OECD DAC, convened in Paris in December 2014, DAC agreed, inter alia, to develop a new statistical measure with the working title of "Total official support for sustainable development. The new measure, which will complement the ODA measure, will potentially cover the totality of resource flows extended to developing countries and multilateral institutions in support of sustainable development and originating from official sources and interventions, regardless of the types of instruments used and associated terms. OECD members agreed to decide on the ultimate parameters of the measure once the post-2015 development agenda has been agreed upon.

C. Debt relief

70. The international community has committed itself to helping to address the debt problems of developing countries, including in Africa, through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, as well as at the bilateral level. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States pledged to continue to support the remaining HIPC-eligible countries and expressed the possibility of exploring, on a case-by-case basis, initiatives to support non-HIPC countries to address debt sustainability.

Current and potential beneficiaries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (as of June 2015)

Status	*Countries*
30 post-completion point countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
3 pre-decision point countries	Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

Source: International Monetary Fund.

71. As of June 2015, 30 African countries have reached the post-completion point and continue to receive full debt relief. In April 2015, Chad reached the HIPC completion point and was therefore granted $1.1 billion in total debt relief.

72. Three other countries, namely, Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan, have remained in the pre-decision phase. In the case of Eritrea, the last International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article IV Consultation took place in 2009 and there has been no discussion of an IMF-supported programme. With the support of the Work Bank and IMF, the External Debt Technical Working Group has been established to tackle the accumulated arrears and debt of Somalia and to ensure that the country builds up a credible track record of economic reforms. Although Somalia is ineligible to receive financial assistance from IMF or the Work Bank owing to its longstanding arrears, both institutions have been providing the country with technical assistance and capacity-building support. The Sudan still remains in arrears to IMF, the World Bank and AfDB.

73. In March 2014, IMF approved a new staff-monitored programme for the Sudan covering the period January-December 2014 with the aim of helping the authorities to build up a track record of cooperation with IMF, which should aid in securing timely support for arrears clearance and debt relief. Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan face common challenges related to peace, security and governance, and will require continued support to strengthen their policies and institutions.

74. With respect to debt sustainability, Africa's public debt-to-GDP is lower today than it has been in decades and overall fiscal policies are sustainable in most

countries. Debt levels on the continent are comparable to those of other developing countries and below that of advanced economies.

D. Foreign direct investment and other private flows

75. Noting the importance of foreign direct investment (FDI) as a vital complement to national development efforts, in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States pledged to encourage investment promotion and prioritize projects with the greatest potential for promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, structural transformation, sustainable industrialization, productive diversification and agriculture. In addition, following the 2015 G-20 Summit commitment to take measures to reduce the average cost of remittance transfers to 5 per cent of the amount transferred, in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda Member States agreed to work to reduce the average cost to less than 3 per cent by 2030.

76. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *World Investment Report 2015*, FDI inflows to Africa declined slightly from $55 billion in 2013 to $54 billion in 2014. North Africa saw its FDI flows decline by 15 per cent to $12 billion, while flows to sub-Saharan Africa increased by 5 per cent to $42 billion. In sub-Saharan Africa, FDI flows to West Africa declined by 10 per cent to $13 billion owing to factors such as the impact of Ebola on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, regional conflicts and falling commodity prices. In addition, the services share in FDI flows to Africa remained lower than the global and the developing country averages, with flows concentrated in extractive industry sectors in resource-rich countries on the continent.

77. During the review period, African countries took specific steps to attract FDI and enhance private sector engagement. According to the World Bank Group's *Ease of Doing Business Report 2015*, the continent accounted for 5 of the top 10 improvers in the world in 2013/14. In addition, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for the largest number of regulatory reforms aimed at making it easier to do business, with more than 70 per cent of its economies carrying out at least one such reform. The report highlighted key regional actions in that regard, including the revision of the Uniform Act on Commercial Companies and Economic Interest Groups by the Council of Ministers of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa. The revised Uniform Act includes provisions on the introduction of new corporate structures and types of securities, as well as additional regulations relating to corporate governance.

E. Trade

78. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda the international community was urged to increase its support to projects and cooperation frameworks that enhance the participation and integration of small-scale industrial and other enterprises in global value chains and markets and foster regional and subregional integration, paying special attention to Africa.

79. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the dollar value of exports from Africa fell 7.6 per cent in 2014, owing to a sharp fall in commodity prices.

80. At the G-7 Summit in Germany strong support was expressed for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Moreover, the G-7 underlined the importance of implementing the "Bali Package", particularly in relation to least developed countries. The G-7 also reiterated the importance of delivering a work programme by July 2015 to ensure the success of the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Nairobi in December 2015.

81. In June 2015, in the United States, the Trade Preference Extension Act of 2015 was signed into law, enacting a 10-year renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a non-reciprocal trade preference programme that provides duty-free treatment for United States imports of certain products from eligible sub-Saharan African countries. As of April 2015, 39 African countries were eligible for the preference benefits.

82. The Fifth Global Review of the Aid for Trade Initiative, held in Geneva in July 2015 on reducing trade costs for inclusive sustainable growth, focused on how to help developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to build the infrastructure and capacity needed to connect to regional and global markets and improve their trade performance. The Review also considered ways to embed trade costs at the centre of the Aid for Trade initiative, so as to strengthen developing countries' competitiveness and their ability to connect to regional and global value chains.

F. South-South cooperation

83. South-South and triangular cooperation continued to be an important driver of Africa's development in all sectors, serving as a complement to North-South cooperation.

84. In November 2014, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation organized the Global South-South Development Expo in Nairobi, the opening session of which was on the theme "Responding to Ebola as a development crisis". Participants from China, Cuba, the Gambia, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Uganda shared relevant experiences and best practices, and also advocated for an integrated response to the epidemic, stressing the importance of the global South in helping to end the crisis. Several African countries, including Uganda and Nigeria, also assisted their neighbours during the crisis, providing financial and human resources to help stop the outbreak.

85. At the sixth summit of BRICS countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), held in Fortaleza and Brasilia, Brazil, in July 2014, the following were adopted: the Fortaleza Declaration and Action Plan; the Agreement on the New Development Bank; the Treaty for the Establishment of a BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement; and agreements among BRICS development banks and export credit insurance agencies". The New Development Bank is intended to mobilize resources and provide technical assistance for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other developing countries.

86. In April 2015, in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia, representatives of Asian and African countries met at an African-Asian Conference summit on the theme "Strengthening South-South cooperation to promote world peace and prosperity". At the summit, which commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the 1955 Asian-

African Conference and the tenth anniversary of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, countries reaffirmed their commitment to South-South cooperation and pledged to strengthen cooperation between the two continents. They also agreed to redouble efforts to promote trade and investment flows between the two regions.

87. The Bandung Message to Strengthen South-South Cooperation and the Declaration on Reinvigorating the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, which were adopted at the conclusion of the summit, both aim to nurture strong relations between the two regions.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

A. General

88. The United Nations system is one of the main pillars of international support for the implementation of NEPAD. Support by its entities at the regional, subregional and national levels took various forms, ranging from technical assistance, capacity-building and funding to advocacy and normative work. The most recent report by the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2015/10) contains detailed information on the nature and scope of the support provided during the past year.

89. In October 2014, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat collaborated with AUC, the regional economic communities, the NEPAD Agency and APRM to convene Africa Week 2014 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on the theme "The Africa we want: support of the United Nations system to the AU Agenda 2063". The week, in which representatives of Member States, United Nations system entities, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders participated, featured a range of high-level events aimed at galvanizing support for NEPAD and the priority sectors of Agenda 2063.

90. The United Nations also made significant efforts to assist in the fight against Ebola during the reporting period, in partnership with the Governments of the affected countries and other global and regional partners. The Secretary-General launched the Ebola recovery assessment process through UNDP, in close collaboration with the African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union and in consultation with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and other United Nations partners.

91. In September 2014, the United Nations established the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, which has redeployed financial, logistical and human resources to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Secretary-General also appointed the Special Envoy on Ebola and established the Global Ebola Response Coalition, comprising organizations that provide strategic coordination of the Ebola response.

92. In July 2015, the Secretary-General convened the International Ebola Recovery Conference to galvanize the international community to make targeted investments to support recovery in the three most affected countries and the Mano River subregion.

B. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union, its New Partnership for Africa's Development and the cluster system

93. During the review period, the United Nations system took several steps to strengthen the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and their subclusters, as well as to enhance overall United Nations support to the African Union and its organs.

94. At the 16th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa in March 2015 on the theme "United Nations system support for the African Union's 2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063", participants discussed cluster achievements and assessed progress and constraints in gender mainstreaming within the Regional Coordination Mechanism. They also underscored the importance of developing a communication strategy as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the implementation of the clusters.

95. In order to adapt to the changing global landscape and the continent's evolving priorities, the participants in the sixteenth session considered the potential reconfiguration of the clusters, taking into account budgetary and capacity requirements as well as relevant African Union Commission strategic frameworks, such as Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year Implementation Plan.

96. Regarding the African Union-United Nations partnership, progress was made during the reporting period towards establishing the Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda, which was endorsed in June 2015 by the twenty-fifth African Union Summit as a successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union.

C. Millennium Villages Project

97. During the review period, the Millennium Villages Project continued to contribute towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in 10 African countries,[c] reaching over half a million people in villages across the region, particularly in the areas of health, food production, education, water access and essential infrastructure.

98. In line with its core priorities for 2013-2015, the Millennium Villages Project has focused on the establishment of transition plans and agreements with local governments to take over project interventions. The 2013 Millennium Promise Annual Report on the Millennium Villages Project, which was published on 4 February 2015, provided a review of monitoring and evaluation activities, an update on scale-up and sustainability initiatives, and a review of major partnerships. The project has also embarked on extensive data collection in 2015, with the aim of publishing a comprehensive evaluation of the project by mid-2016.

[c] Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

99. The seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the prospective adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, along with the adoption by the African Union of Agenda 2063, provide an important opportunity to reflect on our collective efforts towards Africa's development and to pursue a stronger and more effective partnership between Africa and its development partners.

100. African countries have made progress on all of the NEPAD thematic priorities, including through strengthening the financing and implementation of major infrastructure projects, progressing towards implementation of CAADP commitments, strengthening regional and national health systems to respond to global pandemics, improving gender mainstreaming, and working towards climate adaptation in agriculture and other sectors. Progress was also made with regard to APRM, which strengthened its role as a platform for promoting good governance on the continent.

101. The international community also strengthened its support for Africa, particularly through debt relief, efforts to expand trade with the continent, as well as through improved cooperation from both traditional and new and emerging development partners in priority NEPAD sectors such as health, gender equality and women's empowerment, and science, technology and innovation. Progress was also made with regard to United Nations support for Africa, including through ongoing efforts to strengthen the Regional Coordination Mechanism cluster system and establish the Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda as a successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

102. As NEPAD reaches the midway point of its second decade and Africa embarks on the post-2015 development agenda and on its ambitious Agenda 2063, it is important that the continent extend, build upon and maximize partnerships in the areas of financing, technology transfer and institutional and human capacity development, including through strengthened partnerships with traditional development partners and South-South and triangular cooperation.

103. While the continent's growth remains strong, its narrow bases and high dependence on commodities render it vulnerable to terms of trade shocks. This heightens the need for urgent measures to promote the diversification and structural transformation of African economies. The strong emphasis on industrialization and diversification as key aspirations of Agenda 2063 is welcome and should catalyse efforts towards broader diversification of African economies.

104. In order to strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment on the continent, African countries should prioritize education for women and girls and ensure equal enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education and vocational training, as well as gender parity in completion rates. Attention should also be paid to improving employment, decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and girls, including through targeted business development policies and increased provision of financing and technology.

105. **In addition, the international community should consider supporting African women and girls through targeted means of implementation, including financing, technology transfer and capacity-building, as well as by ensuring that their priorities are mainstreamed throughout the goals, targets and indicators of the post-2015 development agenda.**

106. **Concerning financing for development, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which recognizes the importance of domestic resource mobilization in financing for development, it is critical that African countries strengthen domestic resource mobilization, build regional capital markets and financial institutions, and reverse the illicit flows of capital from the continent. International support will be key to those efforts, including financial, technological and capacity-building support to strengthen relevant institutional capacities.**

107. **As intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda enter their final stages before the United Nations Summit in September 2015, particular consideration should be given to Africa's development priorities as articulated in the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as in Agenda 2063 and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan, including with respect to means of implementation. Efforts must also be made to ensure synergy and coherence in the implementation of both agendas.**

108. **With regard to the post-2015 development agenda, monitoring and evaluation will be key for measuring progress and ensuring the implementation of all commitments made towards its achievement, particularly with respect to Africa. In this context, the United Nations monitoring mechanism, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/293, will play an important role in monitoring the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development by African countries and their development partners.**

109. **In view of the importance of regional infrastructure for Africa's development, African countries should strengthen investment efforts by allocating greater resources to regional efforts, continuing regulatory reform processes and enhancing cross-border initiatives in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Dakar Agenda for Action.**

110. **Africa's development partners should complement those efforts through increased financial support, technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly in support of the 16 priority projects identified in the Dakar Agenda for Action and the relevant flagship projects identified in the Agenda 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan. Partners should also strengthen early-stage project preparation support to Africa, including through increased support for the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility.**

111. **While the continent has made noteworthy efforts towards its agricultural development, its share of the global agriculture market remains extremely small. African countries should further prioritize agriculture in their budgets, with the aim of achieving the target of allocating 10 per cent of national budgets to the sector and exceeding the target of 6 per cent annual growth in agricultural productivity, as well as value addition through mechanized agriculture. In addition, development partners should take steps to increase**

African farmers' access to markets; reduce or phase out trade-distorting subsidies for agricultural products and other trade barriers at the national and global levels; and increase financing to African agriculture.

112. The recent outbreak of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone highlights the need for stronger health systems across the continent and the importance of global cooperation in the health sector. Preventing future outbreaks will require a combination of global, regional and national interventions that include strengthening health sectors across the region, the creation of a regional centre for disease control and prevention, and the establishment of early warning systems and resilience-creating mechanisms.

113. With regard to environmental sustainability, climate financing should be strengthened, with an emphasis on improving the balance between mitigation, adaptation and technology financing. Prompt initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund is of particular importance for African countries.

114. The continued delay of the Doha Round of trade negotiations has been a significant setback for African trade and has hindered the efficacy of the continent's structural reforms. Therefore, every effort should be made to conclude the Doha Round, as well as to build upon the success of the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia in 2013, including with respect to trade facilitation, agriculture and the development of least developed countries.

115. In support of Africa's implementation of increasingly ambitious global and regional development agendas, development partners should meet their ODA commitments and strengthen ODA allocation to the continent.

116. In view of the significant role of the regional economic communities in the implementation of the Agenda 2063 First 10-Year Plan, the international community, including the United Nations, should strengthen its engagement with and support for those communities in all areas of development, peace and security, including through technical and institutional capacity-building.